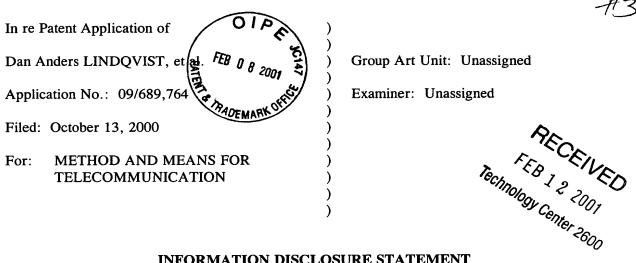
## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby submits the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

European Patent No. 0 351 788; no documents International Patent No. WO 96/10868; U.S. Patent No. 5,714,956; U.S. Patent No. 5,600,317.

The documents are being submitted within 3 months of the filing or entry of the national stage of this application or before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later, therefore no fee or certification is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

Information Disclosure Statement Application No. 09/689,764 Attorney's Docket No. <u>040020-308</u> Page 2

To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Bv.

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Date: 2/8/0/